

THERE IS CLAIMED:

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1. A telecommunication system in which a plurality of terminals communicate with a base station or a connection station and a management unit determines the allocation of resources for calls from each terminal to said connection station, at least some of said terminals include a plurality of connections, said calls are effected by means of cells or packets, the allocation of resources is determined cell by cell or packet by packet in each connection, said management unit includes means for allocating communication resources to each terminal according to the total number of cells or packets waiting in each terminal and a weighting coefficient allocated to each terminal, the allocation of resources by said management unit is independent of the number of connections of each terminal, and each terminal includes means for allocating resources to each connection according to the overall resources allocated to it by said management unit and a weighting coefficient allocated to each connection of said terminal.
 2. The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said weighting coefficient allocated to each connection in a terminal depends on the quality of service of said connection.
 3. The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said weighting coefficient allocated to each terminal is the sum of weighting coefficients allocated to each connection of said terminal.
 4. The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said management unit includes means for allocating to each terminal a number of cells to be transmitted and the start and end of transmission times for said terminal.
 5. The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said weighting coefficient allocated to each terminal determines the required time period between successive transmission times for said terminal.
 6. The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said weighting coefficient allocated to each connection of a terminal determines the time period between the transmission times of two successive cells of said connection.
 7. A terminal for a telecommunication system in which calls are effected by cells or packets, wherein said terminal includes a plurality of connections, the allocation of resources is determined cell by cell or packet by packet, said terminal includes means for transmitting to a management unit responsible for allocating resources to a plurality of terminals a signal representing the total number of cells or packets awaiting transmission, means for periodically receiving from said management unit a signal representing the communication resources allocated

to said terminal, and means for allocating the resources to each connection according to the overall resources that are allocated to it and a weighting coefficient allocated to each connection of said terminal.

8. The terminal claimed in claim 7 wherein said resource allocation signal that is received from said management unit represents a number of cells to be transmitted and the start and end of transmission times for the group of cells to be transmitted and said means for allocating resources to each connection select the connections that will be able to transmit a cell.
9. The terminal claimed in claim 7 wherein said resource allocation signal received from said management unit represents a number of cells to be transmitted and the start and end of transmission times for the group of cells to be transmitted and said means for allocating resources to each connection include means for determining the transmission time of each cell.
10. The terminal claimed in claim 7 wherein said weighting coefficient allocated to each connection depends on the quality of service of that connection.
11. The terminal claimed in claim 7 including means for transmitting two successive cells of the same connection at times separated by a time period that depends on the weighting coefficient allocated to said connection.
12. The terminal claimed in claim 11 wherein said time period between the transmission of two successive cells of the same connection depends on the reciprocal of the weighting coefficient allocated to the corresponding connection.
13. A management unit for allocating communication resources to a plurality of terminals of a telecommunication system in which calls are effected by cells or by packets, at least some of said terminals include a plurality of connections, said resources are allocated cell by cell or packet by packet, and said unit includes means for receiving from each terminal a symbol representing the total number of cells or packets awaiting transmission, means for allocating the communication resources for said terminal according to said number of waiting cells or packets and a weighting coefficient allocated to each terminal, and means for transmitting resource allocation messages to each terminal.
14. The management unit claimed in claim 13 wherein said means for allocating resources to each terminal include means for determining the number of cells or packets to be transmitted by each terminal and the start and end of transmission times for each terminal.
15. The management unit claimed in claim 13 wherein said weighting coefficient allocated to each terminal determines the time period between successive

transmission times for said terminal.

It is the policy of the Department of the Interior to provide for the efficient and economical operation of the Bureau of Land Management and to ensure that the public lands are managed in a manner that is consistent with the national interest.